Prices of formulations

3780. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1324 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 1991 and state;

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of the formulations are recommended to Government by an inter-ministerial sub-committee of the DPRC and not by the BICP;

(b) if so, what is the status of the sub-committee of DPRC when the prices of formulations linked to reduction to bulk drug prices stalled by BICP;

(c) whether it is a fact that DPRC acts quickly to increase the prices on a suo-motto basis within one month of increase in the price of the bulk drug;

(d) what are the names of forumulations where prices on suo-motto basis were fixed ; and

(e) who are the members going permenantly to this committee for the last three years and what are their qualifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BICP studies bulk drugs and recommends prices to the Government. Since the notified prices of certain drugs were at variance with those recommended by the BICP, the Drug Cell of BICP, which provides the secretarial assistance to DPRC Sub-Committee, brought up the matter before it and some clarifications with regard to such variations in the bulk drug prices were sought from the Ministry to understand the reasons.

(c) and (d) Suo-motto workings are not got done from BICP only if the situation so warrants. Recently suo-motto workings were done in cases and ceiling packs of formulations based on such bulk drugs where prices had been revised to accommodate exchange rates adjustment, in order to avoid situation of likely shortages and ensure uninterrupted supplies of medicines.

(e) The constitution of DPRC Sub-Committee which recommends prices of formulations is given as under:

Member (Finance) BICP	—Chairman
Chief Adviser (Cost) BICP	—Member Secretary.
Project Officer (PI) Deptt. of C&PC	—Member
Asstt. Drugs Controller (I) DGHS	—Member
Development Officer, DGTD	—Member

The members of the Sub-Committee are nominated by the respective Ministries/Departments who are members of the DPRC.

Bulk drugs in the findings of BICP

3781. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the bulk drugs where gross irregularities, omissions and commissions were noticed in the findings of the BICP during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether the matter has been sorted out amicably and if so, what are the names of drugs involved, what was the issue involved and what is the decision taken; and

(c) what steps have been taken to subject the BICP reports received during the last three years to impartial scrutiny particularly when they are not subjected to C&A G scrutiny and for their vested interests BICP is padding the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The prices of bulk drugs are fixed by this Ministry on the basis of cost-cum-technical study conducted by the BICP and their examination in this Department. Government has received several reports from BICP during 1990-91 and 1991-92 in connection with cost-cum-technical study of the bulk drugs and the prices have been fixed after detailed examination of their reports, which have been notified in the Gazette of India from time to time. The BICP reports are inputs for decision making in the process of price fixation. In certain cases, clarifications are sought from the BICP on their recommendations before arriving at a final decision. BICP is an expert body in giving their recommendation to this Ministry.